CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR SOCI 1306
SOCIAL PROBLEMS

INSTRUCTOR:
OFFICE HOURS:

I. INTRODUCTION

A. This course studies the application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, deviance, or family problems.

B. Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and empirical and quantitative skills.

- Critical thinking skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Social responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Empirical and quantitative skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

C. This course satisfies three semester hours of the Social/Behavioral Sciences for the Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees. Please check your degree plan to determine the status of this course in your program of study.

D. Prerequisite(s): None

II. OVERALL OR GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.

B. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.

C. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.

D. Discuss how “solutions” to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.

E. Describe how the proposed “solutions” to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.

B. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

C. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

E. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content, and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS
A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon:
   1. Examinations
   2. Written work
   3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows:

   Point/percentage-to-Grade Ratio
   > 89 - 100 A
   > 79 - 89 B
   > 69 - 79 C
   > 59 - 69 D
   < 59 F

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. Please refer to the current CTC catalog for specific withdrawal requirements and processes.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Review the
E. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

F. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

Part I: Thinking About Social Problems
A. Learning Activities: Reading assignment: Chapters 1
B. Unit Objectives: Upon the completion of this section students will be able to:
   1. Identify a social problem
   2. Understand the variability of definitions
   3. Define the elements of social structure and culture
   4. Discuss personal beliefs regarding various social problems
   5. Understand the theories behind social problems
C. Unit Outline
   1. What is a social problem
   2. Elements of social structure and culture
   3. Theoretical Perspectives
   4. Social Research – The sociological enterprise

Part II: Problems of Well-Being
D. Learning Activities: Reading assignment: Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5
E. Unit Objectives:
   1. Define Morbidity, life expectancy and mortality
   2. Describe Sociological Theories of Illness and healthcare, alcohol and drugs, crime and social control and family problems
   3. Define the HIV/AIDS as a Global health concern
   4. Describe the growing problem of obesity
   5. Talk about mental illness
   6. Describe the social factors and lifestyle behaviors associated with health and illness
   7. Describe the problems with US healthcare
   8. Develop strategies for action in improving health and healthcare
   9. Discuss the theories applied to health, wellbeing, alcohol crime, social control and family problems
   10. Measure demographic patterns and costs of crime
   11. Define legal and illegal drugs
   12. Discuss the social consequences of drug use and abuse
13. Discuss strategies for action in family violence, strengthening marriages and alleviating problems of divorce

F. Unit Outline
   1. Physical and mental health and healthcare
   2. Alcohol and Other Drugs
   3. Crime and Social Control
   4. Family Problems

Part III: Problems of Inequality

G. Learning Activities: Reading assignment: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
H. Unit Objectives:
   1. Define and measure poverty
   2. Discuss the sociological theories of poverty, economic inequality, work, the economy, education, race, ethnicity, gender roles, and sexual orientation
   3. Describe socialism and capitalism
   4. Define the problems of work and unemployment
   5. Develop strategies for problems to work and unemployment, inequality in education, responding to prejudice, racism, discrimination, gender equality and equality for everyone
   6. Describe who succeeds in education
   7. Evaluate the problems in the American educational system
   8. Define immigration, racism and ethnic relations
   9. Discuss discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities
   10. Define gender stratification
   11. Describe the social construction of gender roles
   12. Identify the impact of gender socialization on death
   13. Define and measure homosexuality, bisexuality
   14. Discuss prejudice and discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals

I. Unit Outline
   1. Poverty and Economic Inequality
   2. Work and Unemployment
   3. Problems in Education
   4. Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
   5. Gender Inequality
   6. Sexual Orientation and the Struggle for Equality

Part IV: Problems of Globalization

J. Learning Activities: Reading assignment: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15
K. Unit Objectives:
   1. Discuss the sociological theories of population growth, aging environmental problems, science, technologies and war
   2. Measure effects of environmental problems
   3. Identify the social causes of environmental problems
   4. Define the technological revolution
   5. Discuss the consequences of science and technology
   6. Identify the causes of war
   7. Define and discuss terrorism
8. Discuss the consequences of conflict, war and terrorism
9. Describe strategies for action for population growth, aging
   environmental problems, science, technologies and war

L. Unit Outline
1. Population Growth and Aging
2. Environmental Problems
3. Science and Technology
4. Conflict, War, and Terrorism